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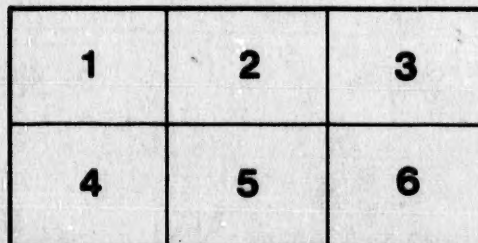
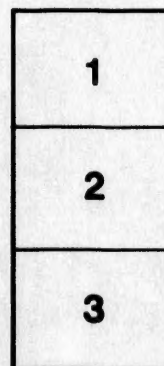
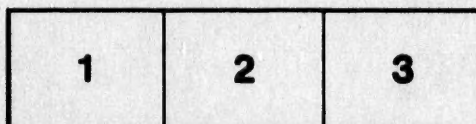
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*Extracted from  
American Register for 1808  
vol 3.*

*See Bancroft  
His North West Coast vol 1. p. 318.*

## JOURNAL

OF A

## VOYAGE BETWEEN CHINA

AND THE

## NORTH-WESTERN COAST OF AMERICA,

MADE IN 1804.

**SUNDAY** morning, the 8th of February, 1804, I left Canton, and arrived, in the evening, on board the *Delia Byrd*, a few leagues below Whampoa; we got immediately under weigh, and arrived the next evening at Macao, where we anchored in four fathoms. The next morning I sent the boat ashore with an officer, to bring off an Otaheite girl, wife to my carpenter's mate, whom I had agreed to take on the voyage. The next morning we again weighed, and launched out on a most difficult, and, as it finally proved, a most disastrous voyage. In the first place, my ship was so leaky that she required pumping every ten or fifteen minutes; we had a stormy coast to beat up against the monsoon; and then to grope our way through an unexplored ocean to the north-west coast of our continent. On the 7th of March, we had advanced as far as the south end of Formosa. This short passage, which may be effected in three days with a favourable wind, cost us an infinite deal of trouble; we had a constant contrary gale, in which the ship suffered very considerable damages in her sails and rigging. During this passage we were constantly near the coast of China, and were always surrounded with numerous fleets of fishing vessels. These junks are about twenty-five tons burthen, of an uncouth construction, but they sail remarkably well. Several of them beat us when we were under double reefed top-sails. They cruize by pairs, dragging between them a large bag seine, which is occasionally hauled in to secure the fish. We ran very near some of those fishermen, and I observed large families of women and children on board. Men born and brought up in this way must make excellent seamen; and should China ever, in the course of events, become a maritime power, their fisheries would be no contemptible beginning towards a navy.

The 7th of March we had, for

the first time since our departure, fine pleasant weather and a fair wind. We passed between Formosa and Betol Tobago, when I discovered another island, lying ten leagues further north than the latter. As this island is not marked on any chart, and being on a very unfrequented track, I presume it has not been seen by any navigator before me; therefore I named it after my partner and friend, Mr. Cleveland. I continued my voyage with great apprehension through this unexplored sea, with a tolerable proportion of favourable winds, and on the 13th saw the island of *Lieukieu*.

This is a large populous island, chief of a groupe lying between it and Formosa, and subject to China. Its inhabitants are highly civilized, and, like the Chinese, carry their origin back to the remotest antiquity. It is not governed as a province of China, but by their own natural sovereigns, who, on account of their prompt submission to the Tartar emperors of China, were left in the full enjoyment of their power and privileges, nothing being required of them but a trifling annual tribute, by way of acknowledgment of their dependence. It is reported that the arts and sciences are here as far advanced as in China; and, had I been successful on my voyage, it was my intention to visit this island on my return to China. On the 18th I saw the island of *Todos Santos*: this is a small uninhabited island, about leagues distant from the southern coast of Japan. We had now got entirely out of the regions influenced by the trade winds and monsoons, and, in consequence, our voyage towards the American continent was continued with great rapidity,

though not with much comfort, as we had very stormy weather, and a constant succession of hard westerly gales. On the 1st of May we arrived off Columbia river, without having experienced any material damage except springing our foremast, which was also much decayed; and it was my intention to have entered this river to procure a new one, and some other spars that we were in want of, and which are very abundant there; but, during eight days that I plied off the river, the weather was so tempestuous that I never dared to attempt crossing the bar, on which the sea broke with horrible fury.

Columbia river was discovered by captain Grey, of Boston, commander of the *Columbia*, in 17—. It is a noble river, and the only considerable one on the western side of our continent; the latitude of its mouth is  $46^{\circ} 20'$  north. It is supposed to be the "Oregon or river of the west" of Carver, and that its sources are near those of our *Missouri*. The rapid current of this great river, meeting the swell caused by the westerly winds, that have the whole sweep of the ocean from Tartary to the American continent, forms a bar at its mouth, which is always difficult, and sometimes dangerous to pass.

On the 9th of May, I proceeded down the coast in search of a port of less difficult entrance. Nothing can exceed the wild beauties of this coast. Its mountains, rising in magnificent amphitheatres, covered with evergreen forests, with here and there a verdant plain near the shore, and a snow-capt mountain in the back ground, offer a view grand and sublime in the highest degree. Here nature

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reigns undisturbed. The slow progress of the savages towards cultivation has hardly raised them above the condition of brutes: except the human form and the use of language, there is little to distinguish them from the four-footed inhabitants of their forests, with the cruelest of which their dispositions seem congenial. Yet, among these rude savages may be seen a proof, that man, in all countries, in similar situations, is led by necessity to similar inventions. Here the primitive arms, the bow and arrow, the spear and the dagger, are the only offensive arms; and the shield of raw hide, of the savages of the old continent, is here found under the form of a jacket of moose skin, more simple perhaps, but answering the same purpose. The latter is universally adopted by the Spanish troops on their frontiers, as the most convenient defensive armour.

The 11th, we arrived at the harbour of Trinidad, and moored the ship in seven fathoms, sandy bottom, and commenced a trade for furs with the Indians. They appeared to be very civil; and I endeavoured to conciliate their good-will by every means in my power: to what effect will be seen hereafter. In the mean time, we began our preparations to wood and water, and I went ashore with the carpenters in search of spars, which we soon found in sufficient abundance, and the latter were immediately employed in felling a large spruce, and reducing it for a foremast. The 13th, the savages came on board in great numbers, and, presuming on our indulgence, began to take greater liberties than they had heretofore done, and, on being

checked, they immediately prepared their arms. Conscious of our superiority, I did not permit any violence to be offered them, and they were prevailed on to leave the ship; but I determined not to suffer them to come aboard again in such numbers with arms. A number of them were equally troublesome to our wooding party ashore, and even attempted to seize on their axes. Every thing was finally settled, however, by means of some trifling presents, and harmony again restored. The 14th, I sent the second officer with an armed party a watering; unfortunately the surf was high, and they got their arms wet at landing. The Indians had been reinforced by some neighbouring tribes, and began to gather round, demanding pay for the water: they were at first satisfied by assurances of being paid aboard, but, as their numbers increased, they became more clamorous, and, finally, sending away their women and children, they seized the water casks, which they immediately stove for the hoops. The officer, seeing their hostile disposition, and the bad state of his arms, very prudently retired, without any resistance to their violence. On the report of the second mate, I ordered a four pounder to be fired just over their heads, to intimidate them, by showing the effect of our shot. In the mean time, a canoe came off from the village to trade, as if nothing extraordinary had happened. I was extremely irritated at such conduct, after the great pains I had taken to conciliate their friendship, and ordered four of them to be seized and confined in irons. In the course of the day, several canoes came off to treat

for the prisoners; I always demanded, as an indispensable condition, that the casks should be returned; they gave me to understand that they had been seized by another tribe, but, by their bringing four of the hoops, and some staves, I was satisfied that they were at least concerned in the outrage, and refused all their solicitations on any other conditions. Wood and water were absolutely indispensable, but the mast lay so far from the beach, that I judged it dangerous to attempt getting it down, after the savages had become so numerous, and showed such hostile dispositions. In the afternoon, I sent two officers with the boats and ten men well armed, to the watering-place opposite the village; the long-boat with six men were stationed in the edge of the surf, within pistol shot of the beach, and the others went ashore to fill the casks. The savages suffered them to finish their work; but, as they were shoving off the boat, which lay aground, they ran down in a long file, firing a cloud of arrows as they approached; they returned them several volleys from the long-boat, which the savages stood with great resolution, and did not retreat until several of them fell, when they were within ten yards of our men on the beach, who were unarmed. They received a number of arrows in their clothes, but none were hurt. I now saw there was no way to get wood and water, without fighting for it, and made preparations to land again the next morning. Early on the 15th, I went, with two boats well armed, to the watering-place; the savages showed themselves in every direction, howling hideously, I sup-

pose for the death of some of their companions, but did not seem discouraged. I disconcerted all their plans, however, by taking possession of a rock within ten yards of the shore: its top was flat and spacious, and commanded the whole shore, the village, and every lurking place, within a sufficient distance to ensure the safety of the working party in the most complete manner. Here I placed a detachment of three men and an officer, with orders to fire on every savage that should show himself. This disposition of our force had the desired effect; after a few shots they all retired, and suffered us to pursue our work in peace. Had we suffered them to assemble within reach of our guns, there is every reason to suppose they would have ventured another attack, in which numbers of the poor wretches must have fallen victims to their blind temerity.

In this manner our work advanced apace; and being convinced that the keeping our prisoners any longer could now answer no good purpose, I set them at liberty, telling them, by signs, that they and their tribe must all remove back until we were gone. I believe the poor wretches had begun to despair of ever seeing their friends again, though we treated them with all possible indulgence while in our power. As soon as they landed, the savages entirely disappeared. I am certain that our conduct with these people will be attended with salutary effects to any other ship that should ever visit this port; as, notwithstanding our having acted entirely on the defensive, we have convinced them of our superiority, and shown that we had no wish to injure them wantonly, but that we were able,

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if we chose, to take the most complete vengeance for any insult. On the 16th, I sent ten men well armed, with two officers, into the woods for some small spars. Unfortunately the second mate let a tree fall on him, and broke his thigh. He was brought on board senseless; I immediately bled him, which brought him to, when I set the bone and applied the bandages *secundum artem*. The savages again made their appearance on the hills, so that I thought it most prudent not to expose the men any more after our misfortune, by sending them into the woods, which afford so many lurking places. The Indians appeared desirous to make peace, and several of them came aboard to trade as usual; but we did not on that account relax from any of our precautions. In the afternoon I sent the boats to finish watering, when our fortress on the rock was still found to be necessary, as, notwithstanding their friendly demonstrations in the morning, the savages fired several arrows at our working party; but the fire at the rock kept them at too great a distance to do us any mischief. On the 18th, with clear pleasant weather, we unmoored and left Trinity. At noon, in latitude  $40^{\circ} 49'$  north, saw cape Mendocino ahead, and the port we left astern.

*Trinidad* is a small bay of about three miles circuit, situated in latitude  $41^{\circ} 3' N.$ , on the north-west coast of America. It was discovered by the Spaniards, in 1775, and was visited and surveyed by captain Vancouver, in 1793. The soundings are very regular, as you enter the bay, from twenty-five to four fathoms, which last depth is found within a cable's length of the shore. The bottom is a clean

black sand, with a small mixture of shells; it is entirely free from rocks, except a border of less than a cable's length from the beach, that runs quite round the bay. This bay is formed by a high rocky point, running from the northward in a direction of about south by west; within, it forms an elbow, and makes a snug cove, about three-quarters of a mile deep. In the same direction, off the point, lies a high white rock, within which and the point is the best entrance; and in about a north-west direction from the point lie three rocky islets, and a range of sunken rocks, extending several miles from the land, which, with the white rock, break the swell, and render it quite smooth in the cove, where several ships may lie moored head and stern in a clear bottom, in the most perfect security. This bay is bordered by a rocky shore, with sandy beaches at intervals; behind this, the land rises very quick for about 100 yards, which space is thickly covered with brakes, nettles, strawberry vines, clover and other herbage, and shrubbery. The top of this elevation is a plain, gently rising, and covered with a thick forest of cedars, fir, hemlock, and spruce. A little way in, the trees grow to an enormous height and size, particularly the cedars, many of which shoot up like beautiful columns, above eighty feet, without a limb or twig. Behind these, the mountains rise to a great height, and are covered with evergreen forests, that are probably coeval with the soil that nourishes them. This high land is split, at intervals of about a quarter of a mile, by deep gullies, down which flow streams of excellent water into the bay. These

gullies are impenetrable by reason of the thick growth of underwood and timber; the former is principally alder, which may be cut at the entrance of the gullies, and is the only wood that can be easily procured at Trinity. A little within, the forest is pierced in every direction by paths made by the moose deer, which seem to abound here.

On the side of the hill, at about the middle of the bay, stands the Indian village; it consists of about a dozen huts, built of a very rude kind of planks, made by splitting the ancient trunks of the fallen cedars with wedges. They are wretched hovels, partly under ground, and each affords a doubtful shelter to several families. The savages inhabiting this village can, I think, hardly exceed 100 persons; they are of the middle stature, and of a strong robust appearance; there is a considerable variety of countenance among them; and I observed several of both sexes, who, if divested of their filth, might pass for handsome. I remarked one man among them whose skin was perfectly white; he had nothing in his countenance peculiarly Indian, and his hair was sandy. This man appeared to be about thirty-five years of age. They are all clad more or less with skins of different animals; the women with great modesty, but the men totally disregard it, generally wrapping what skins they wear round the upper parts of their bodies. They are very fond of ornamenting themselves, and with that view greatly disfigure their persons, by tatooing and painting. One of their women offered me a piece of red ochre in exchange for a string of beads. I observed

several among them, of both sexes, who had their teeth filed down even with their gums; whether by way of ornament, or for what other reason, I could not discover. The men wear their hair clubbed behind, which they increase in size by false hair; the married women divide theirs into two equal parts, which they form with a variety of ornaments into two enormous *queues*, that hang down before; the young girls have their hair simply combed and cut short round the forehead; they have of course a much more interesting appearance than the matrons. The men were very jealous of their women; and, whether it was from fear or chastity, the latter rejected all the offers made them by our sailors, though some must have been of immense value in their estimation. Fish are not abundant on this part of the north-west coast, except during the periodical visits of the sardina or anchovy; and although their forests swarm with deer and other animals, their rude arms render the chase of very doubtful success, so that they are forced to live principally on shell fish; their bay furnishes them a never failing supply of muscles, and the monstrous heaps of shells near their dwellings testify that they constitute the principal article of their diet. Their manufactures are, very tolerable leather, made of moose and deer skins, and a variety of baskets, made of the inner bark of the cedar and spruce trees: these are water tight, and serve them for caps as well as domestic purposes. Their arms are also of their own manufacture; they consist of bows and arrows, pointed with bones and flints, spears and daggers of wood and iron;

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the latter are rude, being formed from pieces of iron obtained directly from foreigners, or by trade with more fortunate tribes: in their fabrication, a large stone serves for an anvil, and a smaller one for a hammer. Their bows are about three feet in length, made of light wood, and very ingeniously strengthened with whale sinew, glued to the back: in the use of this arm they are very dextrous. Their canoes are of very simple construction: they are square at each end in the form of our river fishing boats, and are capable of carrying about fourteen persons. As these savages are hardly emerged from a state of nature, their language is of course barely sufficient to express the most common ideas; I was only able to learn three words of it, which seemed to be of very general signification, and, with the assistance of signs, were sufficient to make myself understood by them.

I could not discover that those savages had the least idea of culture; yet they had a plenty of tobacco, which they smoke out of a wooden tube. It is possible they may obtain it in trade from some more civilized tribe of the interior.

These people, at first, utterly disregarded our fire-arms. They did not excite in them the least curiosity, although I took the precaution, when we first arrived, to show them their effects, by firing a cannon with shot against the rocks, and by killing several birds in their sight with our small arms. In our first skirmishes, they attempted to shield themselves against our shot with pieces of boards and moose skins, and it was not until several of them had paid severely for their presumption, that they began at all to respect

our fire. At first, I attributed this temerity to natural bravery; but I afterwards found it was rather stupid ignorance, as, when experience taught them that they were in danger from our shot, they kept at a wary distance.

Those poor savages greatly admired Harriet, and when we were at peace she had a constant train of admirers round her. The young bucks were at great pains to paint and decorate themselves to please her; one of them carried his gallantries so far as to present her with an otter skin: a striking instance of the influence of the fair sex on man, in his rudest state.

On the 23d, we arrived on the coast of California, where I got abundant supplies of provisions, and began a trade with the missionaries and inhabitants for furs. We continued on the coast of California until the 8th of July, when we sailed for the gulf of that name. On the 13th, off Ceras, we fell in with an English whaling ship from London. The captain dined with us; and, as we were mutually in want of sundry things that we were able to supply each other with, I ran in and anchored along side of him. This gentleman was very friendly and polite, and, as he had his wife with him, who was also a very genteel woman, I spent a day with them in a most agreeable manner. On the 22d of July, we doubled the point of California, and, proceeding up the gulf, arrived at the port of Guimas the 2d of August.

Guimas is a large commodious port, in the twenty-eighth degree of north latitude, on the continent side of the gulph of California. It is entirely desert, and sixty miles from any settlement. The whole of this country, from its re-

note situation from any commercial port, is very badly supplied with goods, and, from the great abundance of gold and silver in it, they are no where in greater demand. But our evil genius had so ordered it, that the same intelligence that informed the merchants of my arrival, informed the government also, who immediately took the most effectual measures to cut off all communication with us. Being, however, in a still harbour, we hoisted out our foremast, and fished it with the timber we got in California; but I found it in so bad a state, that all we could do was to botch it up so as to serve for a time only. We also examined the ship's bottom, and had the mortification to find that the sheathing was fast going, by the myriads of worms that had lodged themselves in it. A short time after our arrival, there was a large body of troops stationed at Guimas to prevent all communication, which, with the wretched state of the ship, determined me to go over to the California side of the gulf, in search of a port where I could give her a more thorough repair. On the 18th of August, the ship was again rigged and ready for sea, and we accordingly sailed in the evening.

During our stay at Guimas, the Spanish officers had behaved with great civility, though rigid in their duty; they often dined aboard, and frequently invited me to their quarters ashore, which I declined accepting, not caring to place myself in their power. On the 19th, I anchored off the mouth of the river Yaqui, where I intended to water, as it was very doubtful whether we should find any on the barren shores of California. We had only time to get on board eight

hogsheads of water, as there came on a very violent gale from the southward, which lasted three days with little intermission. Although the ship rode very easy with the whole of the sheet cable, I had serious apprehensions for our foremast, which worked very much in the heavy swell that rolled in. On the 23d, the weather again resumed its usual serenity, and we sailed from Yaqui. On the 27th, we arrived on the coast of the peninsula, among an extensive range of islands, of the most barren, uncomfortable appearance. Here I anchored in a small bay, and sent the chief officer to explore the coast to the northward for a more convenient port. He returned the next morning, and reported that he had found one every way answering our wishes, at which we arrived the same day, and anchored in thirteen fathoms, sandy bottom, within pistol shot of the shore. This port was entirely land-locked and perfectly smooth, consequently very commodious for our operations. Our situation in one corner of it was also such a one, in a military point of view, that we could defy the whole force of California, except they should bring a superior force by sea.

The 29th and 30th we landed all our cargo, and erected tents ashore for our accommodation, when we began to careen our ship, and finished the repairs on her bottom by the 12th. In the mean time we were visited by our friend the missionary, from a mission about forty miles distant, who brought us fruit and other refreshments; he also showed us a spring of water in another corner of the bay, to which, after relading our cargo, we immediately removed the ship. Here, on account of the

er, as there came a gale from the north, which lasted three days and nights. Although the weather was very easy with the light breeze, I had no objection for our departure, as we were very much relieved that rolled in. The weather again resumed its serenity, and we departed. On the 27th, we reached the coast of the Gulf, an extensive bay, of the most bar- rable appearance. In a small bay, an officer to explore the coast northward for a port. He returned, and reported that the weather was one every way favourable, at which we departed the same day, and an- nounced the depth, sandy bottom, and the shot of the port was entirely perfectly smooth, very commodious for our situation in the bay. It was also such a fine point of view, that the whole force of the bay, except they should be forced by sea.

On the 30th we landed and erected tents for accommodation, to careen our ship, and repairs on her. On the 2nd. In the mean time, visited by our friend, from a mission, miles distant, who and other refresh- ment showed us a spring in the corner of the bay, after relacing our ship, immediately removed, on account of the

stormy weather in the gulf at this season, and the infirm state of our foremast, we were obliged to remain until the 1st of October, which time we employed in putting the ship in as good a state of repair as circumstances would admit of.

This bay is called, by the Spaniards, *Bahia de los Angeles de Resguarda*, or bay of the guardian angels. It forms a very extensive and commodious port; it affords plenty of fish, crabs, and clams, and one spring of fresh water, sufficiently copious to water a ship at. In every other respect, it is the most dreary wilderness possible to imagine. In no direction is there any thing to be seen more cheering than dismal barren islands, rocks, and mountains, whose only inhabitants are sea fowl and foxes. The weather, in the summer season, is intolerably hot here during the day, but the nights are delightfully cool and pleasant. The latitude of this dreary place is  $29^{\circ}$  north. From the Angels we proceeded to another bay on the continent, called Mazatan, in latitude  $23^{\circ} 9'$  north, where we met with the same difficulties and impediments to our business as at Guimas. We left it on the 18th, and arrived at the south point of California the 24th, when we anchored in Punto Siguro, a famous rendezvous of the buccanniers in the last century.

We watered at this place, and left it on the 9th of November, and then proceeded down for the coast of Guatemala. On the 24th December, I arrived at Conchagera on that coast. Here I had the good fortune to be uninterrupted by the Spanish government during a fortnight, which time I employed in getting a new foremast,

and making sundry commercial arrangements. This calm, however, was at last interrupted by the arrival of some Spanish officers and large detachments of soldiers; but we were then in a situation to fear nothing from them. They made a great parade, after finding that I would not trust myself in their power, and threatened to board the ship in their boats. We on our part made every preparation to defend ourselves; and I sent them word by a flag, that I would sink any boat that presumed to approach the ship in a hostile manner. Finally, after convincing themselves that their gasconading was without effect, they requested permission to come on board in a friendly manner, without arms. I agreed to it; and they sent several officers to make some frivolous inquiries as to who we were, what our wants were, &c., in order, as they said, to make a report to their superiors. These gentlemen had an opportunity of satisfying themselves that our armament was sufficient to repel any force they could bring against us, and, pretending to have been in an error as to our designs, gave us permission to supply ourselves with every thing we were in want of, and withdrew their troops from the town. On the 14th of January, 1805, I was ready for sea, and sailed for the coast of California.

The bay of Amapalla, or Fonscia, is a very extensive inlet, on the coast of Guatemala, running in north, and spreading away east and west, between two peninsulas. Its western cape is in latitude  $13^{\circ} 15'$  north, and from thence over to the other cape, called Punta Harinas, is about eight leagues. There are many islands in this bay; the

most considerable of which are, Conchaguita, that forms a channel with the western shore, of about three miles width; Mangera, east from the latter, three miles distant; and Tigre, about four miles north of Mangera. These islands are high and thickly covered with verdant forests; Tigre is the highest; its top runs up to a peak, and is bare. In a direction of about S. E. from Mangera, three or four miles distant, are two rocks, called the Farellones. About N. W. from Conchaguita, five miles distant, is a low rocky point, that forms to seaward a fine sandy bay, where once stood the city of Amapalla; round the point, the bay runs up to the westward, and makes the fine harbour of Conchagua. On its left margin going in, stands, in a pleasant situation, the city of San Carlos, if a miserable village of about fifty mud huts deserves such an appellation; it is, however, a city inhabited entirely by mulattoes, and governed by a corporation of two alcaldes, two mayors, two rigidors, and four alguazils, all of them carrying the distinctive badges of their magistracy. This harbour is capable of receiving above a thousand sail of ships, with from five to three fathoms strong muddy bottom. This part of the bay branches out into a number of creeks, navigable for boats, and even small vessels, where an abundance of timber may be had, and fine mangroves, fit for masts for the largest ships: they also serve as embarcaderos to the planters.

The eastern part of this immense bay, according to the best information I could obtain, is very shoal: the port of Pueblo del Vijo, situated on that side, was once ca-

pable of receiving ships, but is now choaked up with mud; it serves at present for shipping and receiving, in large canoes, the goods that pass between Granada and Leon, and Guitimala and the other commercial towns on the western side.

This bay may be known by the very remarkable volcanic mountain of San Miguel, which stands to the westward, a good way inland; it is round, very high, and square at the top. The entrance is clear and safe any where between the western shore and the Farellones; but as the harbour of Conchagua is the only safe place in it, on account of the strong northerly gales that blow here at full and change, the western channel should always be preferred; keeping as near mid channel as may be, there will be found not less than five fathoms at low water. From abreast of the island to the point, it deepens to twenty fathoms, and then gradually shoals again: calculations should be made for the tides, which are very rapid and regular: at full and change, it is high water at the point at two o'clock. To the northward of Conchaguita there are several other islands, over to which there is but two fathoms at low water, so that, coming into Conchagua by either of the other channels, a ship would have to cross that shoal, which may be avoided by taking the western entrance. At present none of the islands of this bay are inhabited, except Tigre and two small ones near it, where there are cattle; they were abandoned, together with the city of Amapalla, on account of the depredations of the buccanniers, and now exhibit no vestige of former improvement. The only towns

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now existing contiguous to these shores are, San Carlos, before mentioned, and Conchagua, an Indian village, not far distant from the former. Three leagues from the port is the small town of San Alexo, a place of inconsiderable consequence; and six leagues further is the city of San Miguel, the latter containing from 5000 to 6000 inhabitants, and is a place of considerable wealth and trade.

The fruits of this country are those common to the tropical regions, and are exquisitely fine of their kind. They have, as in all the Spanish American settlements, a great abundance of cattle. Indian corn is the grain most in use among them, and they raise wheat in sufficient quantities for their own consumption. In commerce, indigo is the staple production of the country, and is of a quality superior to any other. There are very few slaves in this province: the lands are almost entirely cultivated by free hands.

The climate, from October to May, is dry, pleasant, and healthy; the rest of the year they have abundant rains; but, on account of the strong winds from the mountains, which blow generally at full and change of the moon, and purify the atmosphere from the putrid exhalations from the numerous marshes, they are free from any malignant disorders. Tertian fevers are however very prevalent in that season. Near the point of Conchagua there are hot springs, which seem to be strongly impregnated with sulphur: the inhabitants informed me that they had found relief from rheumatic pains by bathing in them. The inhabitants of this country, having little communication with Europeans, have a greater simplicity

of character than I have observed any where. They are kind, hospitable, and friendly to strangers, but among themselves are envious, and much given to tattling. During my short stay with them, I learnt all the anecdotes of their society, and rarely heard them speak well of each other. This diabolical passion seems inseparable from the human mind. These poor people are almost universally infected with the venereal disease; they have no physicians among them, and consequently perish miserably; though they are so accustomed to it, that they give themselves very little uneasiness about its consequences. Neither is this apathy confined to the ignorant country people: several Spaniards from San Miguel showed me the ravages of this scourge of the human race on their own persons, and spoke of it with the greatest *sang froid* imaginable.

On the 24th of February, I arrived without any remarkable occurrence on the coast of California, where we got plentiful supplies of provisions as usual, and were not unsuccessful in our collections of furs. The 14th of March, I paid a visit to the island of Santa Catalina, where I had been informed, by the Indians, that there was a good harbour. We remained there a few days only, to ascertain that point. We found the harbour every thing that could be desired, and I determined that, after collecting all the skins on the coast, I would return to it and careen the ship, which she was by this time greatly in want of. After completing our business on the coast, we returned to Santa Catalina, and anchored in the harbour on the 1st of May. As I

was the first navigator who had ever visited and surveyed this place, I took the liberty of naming it after my much respected friend, M. De Roussillon. We warped the ship into a small cove, and landed the cargo and every thing moveable, under tents that we had previously prepared for their reception. The Indian inhabitants of this island, to the amount of about 150 men, women, and children, came and encamped with us, and readily afforded us every aid in their power.

After caulking the ship's upper works, and paying, or rather plastering them with a mixture of lime and tallow, as we had no pitch, tar, or any resinous substance on board, we careened her. We found her bottom in a most alarming state: the worms had nearly destroyed the sheathing, and were found to be lodged in the bottom planks. I was now pretty well assured of what I had long before feared; that is, that she would not carry us back to Canton. We, however, repaired the first side in a tolerable manner, and paid it with a thick coat of lime and tallow; righted and hove out the other side, which we found far worse than the first. The keel and stern-post were nearly reduced to a honey-comb. It was necessary to heave her far out, in order to apply effectually such remedies as were in our power, but unfortunately we hove her rather too far, and she upset and filled. This was a sad misfortune. It did not discourage us, however, and we went to work with spirit and resolution to remedy it, and had the satisfaction of righting her the next day, without apparently having suffered any material damage. The day following

we pumped and bailed out the water, and the day after hove the ship out a third time, but had the misfortune to find her leak so bad, that we were obliged to right her immediately. I next determined to lay the ship ashore at high water, and endeavour to repair her when the tide should leave her. This experiment was tried without effect, as she buried herself so much in the sand, as to put it out of our power to do any thing effectual; but the greatest misfortune was, that, as the tide came in again, we found the ship leak so bad, that both pumps were necessary to keep her free. This demanded an immediate remedy; and as the leak was known to be aft, I ordered the mizen-mast to be cut away in order to come at it. The leak was soon discovered by this means, but so situated that we could apply no other remedy than the lime and tallow that had been previously prepared for her bottom; this, mixed with oakum, was driven down on the leak, and we had the satisfaction to see it reduced by these means to one pump by the time she was afloat. We now burnt a large quantity of lime, which we made into stiff mortar, and put on the first, laying a platform of boards over it, and covering the whole with several tons of stones, to keep it firmly down. This new method of stopping leaks we found to answer very well, as, in the course of a few days, when the mass had consolidated, the ship made very little water. By the 9th of June, the ship was again rigged with a jury mizen-mast, our cargo on board, and we were again ready for sea. On the 12th, we bid adieu to our Indian friends, and left Port Roussillon with the intention of run-

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ning down the coast, and, if we found the ship not to leak so much as to be unsafe, to run for the Sandwich Islands, where I determined to leave her, and to take passage in some north-west fur trader for Canton.

As one of the most important events of our voyage took place at the island of Santa Catalina, and our long stay there gave us an opportunity of observing the manners and genius of its inhabitants, I shall here subjoin a brief description of them: to this I shall also add a general account of California, composed from such information as I collected during my voyage to that coast.

California is the northernmost and latest of the Spanish establishments in America. The origin of its name is unknown; it most probably was taken from some term in the native languages of the country. It was first given to the peninsula only, but has since been extended to all the northern country occupied by the Spaniards, the whole of which is now known by the name of the Californias. This country was first visited by the celebrated sir Francis Drake, who gave it the name of New Albion, but that of California has since prevailed.

The Californias are bounded, on the east, by the gulf of the same name, or Vermillion sea, and the country of the Colorado Indians; on the south and west by the Pacific ocean; and on the north by the unexplored regions of north-west America.

The south point of California, called Cape St. Lucas, is situated in latitude  $22^{\circ} 45' N.$ , and longitude  $112^{\circ} 16' W.$  from the meridian of Paris. The western side extends in about a north-west

direction to the post of St. Francisco, which at present forms the northern frontier of this country, and is situated in latitude  $37^{\circ} 47' N.$  The eastern coast runs up in a direction little more northerly, to the head of the gulf, in latitude  $31^{\circ} 38' N.$ : so that the widest part of the peninsula hardly exceeds thirty leagues.

California is naturally divided by a range of high mountains, called the Sierra Madre, that runs from south to north, through its whole extension, and each side is bordered by a number of islands. Those on the western side, that form the canal of Santa Barbara, are St. Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Santa Catalina, and Santa Clemente. Several of these islands are large and well watered, and most of them are inhabited by Indians not yet converted. Farther down is Guadaloupe, in latitude  $22^{\circ} 48' N.$ , sixty leagues from the coast, uninhabited, and no water near its shores. This island is very high, and of about thirty miles circuit.

Ciros is a large island of a triangular form, and about ninety miles circuit; its south point in latitude  $28^{\circ} 3' N.$ , and about twelve leagues from the coast. There are three small islands off the north end of this island, called San Benito, which together form a good harbour; and off the south end lies another small island, perfectly barren. Water may be had on Ciros only; it also swarms with sea elephants, and on the others are large numbers of fur seal. There are several other islands further down the coast, but I am unacquainted with their nature and positions. The islands on the eastern coast are numerous, and some of them large; but they are

perfectly barren, and afford nothing of any utility except salt. On this side also, in latitude is an extinguished volcano, where great quantities of excellent sulphur may be gathered; in the same neighbourhood there is an abundance of red ochre.

The climate of California generally is dry and temperate, and remarkably healthy; on the western coast the sky is generally obscured by fogs and haze, but on the opposite side it is constantly clear; not a cloud is to be seen, night or day. The north-west winds blow very strong eight months in the year, on the western coast, with very little interruption; the land breezes at that time are hardly perceptible; but in the winter months they are stronger and regular. In the months of January, February, and March, there are at times very high gales from the south-east, which render most of the bays and harbours on the coast unsafe at that season.

The face of the country is mountainous; the upper division is beautifully interspersed with pleasant and fertile valleys and plains, many of which are covered with fine forests of oak and other timber: these are almost universally remote from the sea coast.

The harbour of San Francisco is formed by the entrance of an immense river, which has been explored but a very little way from thence; otherwise, there are in California none of what would be called rivers in other countries, but many rivulets that run from the high lands into the sea. The lower division is uncommonly barren: it seldom rains there, and there are few springs of water, which grow annually scarcer, in-

somuch that they have been obliged, on that account, to abandon several missions that were formerly situated in fertile valleys, now parched up with drought: the southern part of the peninsula lying contiguous to the tropic of Cancer, is better watered and more fertile.

Most of the animals of Europe have been naturalized in California, where they have increased to a great degree: it is said that more than 80,000 cattle run wild in the mountains of the south part of the peninsula. This climate seems to be particularly favourable to horses and mules, as they retain their strength and vigour till past thirty years. The country abounds with deer, hares, foxes, wolves, bears, ounces, panthers, and a species of wild goat called *verenda*: in Upper California the moose deer is also found in great abundance, and there are great numbers of tufted partridges and quails.

Most of the fruits and vegetables of Europe have also been naturalized in California, where they come to great perfection. The only fruit peculiar to the country, that I have seen, is the pitaya: it is a species of the prickling pear, or Indian fig, and has a most delicious flavour. They also have a plant here called the mixcal, which I have never seen in any other country, though I am informed it abounds in New Spain. This plant greatly resembles the aloes in appearance, and grows in great abundance on all the barren shores and mountains of Lower California. The manner of preparing it for use is as follows: when it has come to its point of maturity, which is easily known by the size and roundness of the

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heads, they begin by cutting off the top leaves, which uncovers the head, that in form very much resembles a cabbage; this they cut off as far down as it is tender: in this state it has a very disagreeable taste, and so acrid as to raise blisters on the skin. When they have a sufficient number of these heads collected, they make a kind of kiln, by scraping away the earth in a circular manner, and lining it with stones, where they heap up a large pile of dry brush, on the top of which they place the heads of mixcal, and set fire to it. When the pile is burned down to ashes, they withdraw the heads, and scrape away the ashes and stones, when they replace the mixcal in the kiln, and cover it with the hot stones and ashes, and the whole with earth, when they heap another pile of dry brush on the whole, to which they set fire and leave it. At the end of three days, they open the kiln and withdraw the mixcal, which, in peeling off the outside cinders, is found to be transformed into a fine, transparent, delicious sweetmeat: as every head has a particular flavour, there is found in one kiln a great variety of pine apples, pears, quinces, &c., &c., and of a delicacy and richness of flavour hardly inferior to the best preserved fruits. The mixcal shoots up a stalk of several yards in height, and about the size of a man's arm, on the top of which grows a large yellow flower, in size and form resembling the sun flower: when the seeds ripen the plant dies. I do not know how long this plant is coming to maturity, but as often as one is cut another springs from the root. This plant grows spontaneously, in great abundance, in the most barren parts, drawing

its sustenance chiefly from the atmosphere: with a little care, it might be multiplied infinitely.

In the winter season, the bays and harbours of California abound with geese, brant, ducks, &c.; in some of the islands, as before mentioned, there are great numbers of sea elephants; and fur and hair seals; the sea otter is also found in great numbers, as far down as the 28th degree of latitude. There is a great variety in the quality of the fur of this beautiful animal, which I have reason to think is not entirely the effect of climate: those taken at the mission of San Louis, in latitude of 35°, are no way superior to those that are caught in latitude 28°; and yet the otter that are taken in the canal of Santa Barbara are superior to any, not only on this coast, but to any others that I have seen. This variety is probably owing to the difference of the food on which the animal lives; the climate also undoubtedly has its influence; and the furs of this coast, taken collectively, are certainly inferior to those taken in the high latitudes of north-west America; yet in the Canton market very little distinction is made between them. There are great numbers of whales in all the seas of California, and a great abundance of excellent fish; on the upper coast, sardinas and anchovies are so plenty, that immense quantities might be taken in their season. But no encouragement is given to industry in this country: neither their fish nor furs can be introduced into New Spain, without paying a heavy duty.

The Indians that inhabit the shores and islands of the canal of Santa Barbara seem to be a race of people quite distinct from the other aboriginals of the country.

They are a handsome people, remarkably sprightly, courteous, and intelligent, and display great ingenuity in all their arts. They make fine canoes of small pine boards, sewed together in a very curious manner; these are generally capable of carrying from six to fourteen people, and are in form not unlike a whale boat; they are managed with paddles, and go with surprising velocity: they besides make a great variety of curious and useful articles of wicker work, and excellent pots and mortars of stone. The other Indians of this country differ very little among each other in their persons, genius, and manners: they are a dull, stupid people, of the ordinary stature, and far from comely. The fathers informed me, that, notwithstanding their apparent stupidity, they have some rude notions of astronomy; they distinguish the season by the movements of the heavenly bodies, and mark the hours of the night by the positions of the *great bear* and *pleiades*. The canoes used on all this coast, except in the canal, are a very rude kind of machines, made of flags. The Indians of the canal have a tradition of a race of white men being shipwrecked on their coast, at some remote period: this they assign as the cause of the great difference in their favour before mentioned.

The inhabitants of California were formerly very numerous. In the journal of a voyage performed by Sebastian Viscayno, in 1602, to explore the western coast, and by father Gonsag, a jesuit, in 1746, to explore the gulf of California, by order of the court of Spain, it is remarked, that all along, wherever they passed, they found great multitudes of people. I have touched at a great number of the

same places in the course of my voyages to this country, which are now solitary and desert; not a soul is to be seen, except now and then a straggler from the neighbouring missions. One of the missionaries informed me, that, fifty years ago, they numbered 7000 souls at the mission of the Purissima, in latitude  $26^{\circ} 30'$ , and that at present they do not exceed fifty persons. At present, Lower California is nearly depopulated: no mission there numbers above 350 Indians; not more than three exceed 250; and the greater part have less than fifty persons. It is difficult to imagine what can have been the cause of this extraordinary depopulation, in a country where no establishments but missions and garrisons have been made. At present, the miserable remains of these people are almost universally infected with the venereal disease, and numbers perish daily, in the most deplorable manner, with that loathsome disorder: as no pains are taken to stop it, there is reason to suppose, that in a few years it will entirely exterminate them. Upper California is still populous, and the same disorder rages there with the same violence. Captain Vancouver speaks in high terms of the successful practice of medicine and surgery by the Franciscan missionaries in this country: I have had a pretty large acquaintance with those gentlemen, and I have not known any one among them who appeared to have the least tincture of any science. This observation may also be extended to the Dominicans, who are a much politer order of men. They were always soliciting medicines and medical advice of me, and lamented the unfortunate situation of the country in

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that respect: many of them assured me, that there was not in all California one qualified physician or surgeon. I have also reason to think that captain Vancouver has likewise overrated their abilities in the arts as well as sciences, as they have not as yet erected a single mill in Upper California, though the country abounds in materials and excellent situations, for both wind and water mills. In such circumstances, such a useful, and necessary, and simple piece of mechanism would hardly have been neglected, if they had known how to direct their construction. At present, all their grain is ground by the tedious process of rubbing it by hand between stones, or beating it in mortars.

The Spanish population of the Californias is very inconsiderable; by the best information I could obtain, it hardly exceeds 3000 souls, including the garrisons, among which, even the latter, the officers excepted, there are very few white people: it principally consists of a mixed breed. They are of an indolent, harmless disposition, and fond of spirituous liquors. That they should not be industrious, is not surprising; their government does not encourage industry. For several years past, the American trading ships have frequented this coast in search of furs, for which they have left in the country about 25,000 dollars annually, in specie and merchandize. The government have used all their endeavours to prevent this intercourse, but without effect, and the consequence has been a great increase of wealth and industry among the inhabitants. The missionaries are the principal monopolizers of the fur trade, but this intercourse

has enabled the inhabitants to take part in it. At present, a person acquainted with the coast may always procure abundant supplies of provisions. All these circumstances prove, that, under a good government, the Californias would soon rise to ease and affluence.

The government of this country may be considered as altogether military, although civil causes may be carried before the audience of Guadalaxara, in New Spain. The governor rules every thing, and no one undertakes to dispute the legitimacy of his decisions. The missionaries are also under his jurisdiction in civil matters, but he does not interfere with the Indians attached to the missions, except at the request of the fathers, who are their sovereign magistrates.

The political and military arrangements for the government of the Californias are as follows: the whole country is divided into six military districts, called *presidios*, or garrisons; these are, beginning with the northernmost, San Francisco, Monterrey, Santa Barbara, San Diego, San Vicente, and Loreto. In these *presidios* are distributed about four hundred cavalry, which forms the whole military force of California: they are each commanded by a lieutenant, except San Vicente, which is not properly a *presidio*, and is commanded by an ensign. The *presidios* furnish the necessary guards to the missions under their protection; generally from three to five soldiers, with a sergeant or corporal, to each mission. The soldiers also do the duty of couriers; and every occurrence of the least consequence is immediately transmitted by express to the governor. During the last war,

small detachments of artillery were quartered in the principal *presidios*, but they were withdrawn at the peace.

The Californias have, until lately, been under one government, of which Monterrey was the capital; but I am informed that they are now separated. The division is at San Diego, and Loreto is the capital of Lower California. I am also informed that considerable reinforcements of troops are ordered to be raised in New Spain for that country.

The plan of civilization in the missions is to instruct the Indians in the catholic religion, the Spanish language, the necessary arts, agriculture, &c.; but the notion of private property is not admitted among them; so that each mission forms an indivisible society, of which the fathers are the kings and pontiffs. The missionaries of the Franciscan order, in Upper California, have salaries of 400 dollars per annum; the Dominicans that are established below have but 350 dollars. The missions of California may be considered as so many valuable estates or plantations belonging to the king of Spain, and capable, in case of a conquest of this country, of furnishing abundant supplies of all kinds of provisions, horses, &c.

I shall give the best account I am able of these missions, as far as I have information respecting them, together with the other establishments in the country, and its principal bays and harbours.

The missions of San Francisco, Santa Clara, and the Pueblo de San Josef, are within the jurisdiction of San Francisco. They are represented by captain Vancouver as very fertile and flourishing, and are esteemed by the Spaniards to

be among the richest establishments in the country.

Santa Cruz, near Point *Ano Nuevo*, and a *pueblo* of the same name in its neighbourhood, form the northern frontier of the jurisdiction of Monterrey: the first was founded in 1789, and the second in 1790. Between that and Monterrey stands la Solidad, and near the *presidio*, El Carmelo. Further down the coast are situated San Antonio, San Miguel, and San Luis; the latter is the last to the southward within this jurisdiction. Those missions are none of them far removed from the coast: they are reputed rich by the Spaniards in stock and grain; and the account given by monsieur de la Perouse of the extraordinary fertility of El Carmelo, justifies that report.

The mission of San Luis is situated from six to twelve miles from the coast, in a fertile valley, watered by several streams: it has 1000 Indians attached to it, and its annual productions are 5000 fanegos of wheat, 1500 fanegos of corn, with barley, oats, and pulse in proportion; it has also vineyards, and a plenty of fruit. The stock belonging to this mission exceeds 1000 head of horned cattle, besides horses, sheep, hogs, goats, &c.: its buildings are said to be excellent; even the habitations of the Indians are of stone and plaster. This mission has a commodious port, and a plenty of good timber.

The Purissima, situated near Point Conception, forms the northern frontier of the jurisdiction of Santa Barbara: it is watered by several streams, and is said to be little inferior to San Luis in fertility and abundance of stock.

Between this mission and Santa Barbara, was founded, in 1804, the



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mission of Santa Agnes, about three miles from the coast. It is well watered, is in a fertile spot, and bids fair to be ranked among their richest establishments in a short time. Its productions the first year were 1500 fanegos of wheat, and 500 of corn: the wheat was the production of thirty fanegos sown, that is, fifty for one.

Santa Barbara is situated in the neighbourhood of the presidio: it has 2400 Indians attached to it. I learnt no particulars respecting this mission, other than that it is very rich in stock and grain, vineyards and fruits.

San Buenaventura is situated about eighteen miles below the presidio, half a mile distance from the sea, where there is good anchorage and safe landing: it stands on the left margin of a charming valley, and has an extensive plain to the south-east of it, which, when I was there, was covered with cattle, and the vale appeared to be cultivated as far as the eye could reach. This mission was founded in 1784: it has 1200 Indians attached to it, and its stock of cattle is said to exceed 15000 head, besides horses, mules, sheep, hogs, &c.; and its production in grain, wine, &c., are equally abundant.

San Fernando is situated between Buenaventura and the Pueblo de los Angeles: whereabouts I am unable to say, or how far from the sea: the Spaniards report it to be a flourishing establishment.

The Pueblo de los Angeles is about twenty-five or thirty miles in a north-west direction from the bay of San Pedro, and forms the south-eastern boundary of the jurisdiction of Santa Barbara. This village is composed of about 100

families, many of whom are in easy circumstances, and some possess from 3000 to 5000 head of cattle. This part of the country is fertile, and produces large quantities of grain and pulse; they are also rapidly advancing in the culture of the vine, and the wine produced here is of a good quality.

San Gabriel is situated about twelve or fifteen miles north from the bay of San Pedro, and forms the north-west frontier of the jurisdiction of San Diego. I learnt few particulars respecting this mission. It has 1200 Indians attached to it, and is reported to be very rich in Californian wealth, that is, cattle, grain, and fruits: they informed me that last year (1804) sixty casks of wine were made at San Gabriel.

About thirty-five miles down the coast stands San Juan Capistrano, close to the sea shore, where there is safe anchorage and good landing nine months in the year. The situation of this mission is very romantic and delightful: in a charming valley, thickly shaded with fine trees, through which runs a fine stream of water. I learnt few particulars respecting the mission of San Juan, but they say it is not inferior in wealth to any in California.

Not far from San Juan Capistrano is another mission, called San Luis Rey, of the resources and situation of which I am utterly ignorant.

Near the presidio of San Diego, is situated the mission of the same name. I know very little of this establishment, which is the last to the southward of the Franciscan order, except that it is esteemed inferior, in most respects, to all their others.

The missions of Lower California are hardly worth describing. San Miguel and Santa Catalina are the first, and terminate the jurisdiction of San Diego: they have each about 250 Indians, and produce little or nothing more than what is sufficient for their subsistence. San Thomas, San Vicente, San Domingo, and Rosario lie along the coast from the bay of Todos Santos, down to the 30° of latitude, and, with a mission lately established in the mountains, form the jurisdiction of San Vicente. These missions are of small importance; their Indian population are from 200 to 300 souls each. San Domingo is the best, and yields annually about 1500 fanegas of wheat, with other articles in proportion: it also produces a considerable quantity of very good wine, and feeds several thousand head of cattle. The others likewise produce a little wine, except Rosario, which yields nothing, and is dependent on its neighbours for subsistence.

The missions of San Fernando and San Borja are the next down the coast: the first has 250 Indians, and the second 400. The wine of San Fernando is excellent, and San Borja has excellent fruits; but otherwise they produce nothing of consequence. These missions, with all below, are immediately dependant on Loreto. From San Borja down to San Josef del Cabo, there is not an establishment worth notice; even Loreto, the capital, produces nothing, and none of the missions have more than fifty or sixty Indians.

San Josef might, by encouragement, become a place of considerable importance; it is situated in a pleasant vale, that is well watered. There are few Indians at

that mission, but there and a pueblo not far inland from it, called San Antonio, there is a considerable Spanish population; I believe about 400 or 500 souls. They have a plenty of cattle, raise a good deal of corn, make some sugar and rum, but raise no wheat. Here they have silver mines, which would be productive, if they had the means of working them; the pearl fishery is also of considerable importance: in some years they collect as much as twenty-five pounds of pearl. This part of the country is very mountainous, and tolerably well watered; it affords retreat and subsistence to an incredible number of wild cattle; they say upwards of 80,000.

The Spaniards have complete possession of the peninsula of California; but that is not the case above: there their domination is bounded by the Sierra Madre, which in no part is far removed from the coast; so that in reality they are masters of the maritime part of the country only. Beyond that range of mountains the country is remarkably fine, well watered, and covered with forests: these they have not as yet been able to penetrate, on account of their being thickly inhabited by warlike tribes of Indians. I am informed that the government have it in contemplation to establish lines of missions and garrisons from San Francisco to New Mexico, and by the country of the Colorado Indians to the same place, and by these means to complete the conquest of the country. But that is a project that does not seem likely to be very soon realized.

San Francisco, latitude 37° 47' N., longitude W., is a fine harbour, capable of receiving the

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largest ships, and affords plenty of wood and water. In its neighbourhood is a great plenty of timber proper for ship building, and the neighbouring establishments may afford ample supplies of provisions. This port is formed by the entrance of an immense river, never yet far explored, but it is thought to be of great extent. Its entrance is defended by a battery, on which are mounted some brass eight pounders, which afford only the show of defence; and the place could make no resistance against the smallest military force; neither could its resources in provisions be easily removed out of the way of an enemy.

Monterrey is an extensive open bay, in latitude N., and longitude W., situated between Point *Pinos* and Point *Ano Nuevo*, lying from each other N. 72° W., and S. 28° E., 22 miles apart. It is formed by the coast falling back from the line of the two points nearly four leagues. The only part that is at all eligible for anchoring is near its south extremity, about a league within Point *Pinos*, where the shores form a cove that affords a clear, good riding for a few vessels; and as there is always a land breeze night and morning, ships may always go out at that time. There is a miserable battery on a hill that commands the anchorage, but it is altogether inadequate to what it is intended for. Water and wood are plenty at Monterrey, and the neighbouring missions are capable of furnishing abundant supplies of provisions. The garrison is situated immediately in the vicinity of the anchorage, where they have no works capable of affording defence.

Bernard's Bay, in latitude 38° 8' 45" N., and west longitude 123° 39' 45", is a very commodious anchorage, well sheltered against the prevailing winds; it is also protected from the southerly gales by a reef, and the holding ground is good: here is a plenty of wood and water, and the wealthy mission of San Luis is about two leagues distant. This bay is unknown to the Spaniards: it might, at a very small expence, be fortified, so as to prevent a ship's anchoring there.

From Point Conception down to the mission of San Buenaventura, there is a great number of anchoring places, where wood and water may be had, and the rich missions in that neighbourhood are capable of furnishing large supplies of provisions: indeed, this is the most agreeable as well as the most wealthy district in California.

About miles to the eastward from Point Conception is the *presideo* of Santa Barbara, with a very smooth, commodious anchorage, in good weather; but it is greatly exposed to the southerly gales. This place, like San Francisco and Monterrey, has only the show of defence, and would fall an easy conquest to the smallest ship of war.

The next anchorage on the coast is the bay of San Pedro: this bay is very spacious, and has good anchorage and shelter from the prevailing winds, but it is entirely exposed to the southerly gales. Here there is no wood, and, without digging wells, water cannot be procured at all seasons. The mission of San Gabriel and Pueblo de los Angeles are situated, the one twelve and the other twenty-five or thirty miles from this place:

both of them are capable of furnishing large supplies of provisions.

Directly opposite to San Pedro lies the island of Santa Catalina, on the north side of which is a small but very fine port, where ships of any burden may ride in the most perfect safety at all seasons. As it is always smooth in this port, it is peculiarly proper for careening and repairing ships: there are several springs of water in its neighbourhood, which afford a sufficient supply of that necessary article at all times, and of the best quality. The proximity of this island to all this coast, from Point Conception to San Juan Capristano, renders its port of importance, as a winter harbour, to all ships that may have any thing to do there in that season.

At San Juan Capristano, there is a tolerable safe roadstead in good weather, within the reach of a four pounder of the wealthy mission of that name.

San Diego is a very fine, secure harbour, formed by an extensive arm of the sea, the entrance of which is not a cable's length wide; there is no where less than four fathoms going in, and within there is safe anchorage for ships of any burthen. There is a sorry battery of eight pounders at the entrance: at present, it does not merit the least consideration as a fortification, but with a little expence might be made capable of defending this fine harbour. The *presidio* is about four miles distant from the anchorage. A considerable force would be necessary to hold this post, as a landing might be effected on the back of it, at the false port of San Diego: the entrance of this port is said to be too shoal for ships.

The bay of Todos Santos is very spacious: at the bottom of it, there is safe anchorage at all seasons. It affords a scanty supply of wood and water, and has in its neighbourhood the missions of San Thomas and San Miguel; but, as they are poor, no considerable supplies could be expected here.

The bay of San Quintin is an extensive arm of the sea, with a narrow entrance, and difficult of access. This harbour is very secure, but affords neither wood nor water, and the missions in its neighbourhood are too poor and difficult of access to expect any considerable supplies from. Below San Quintin, there are a great number of bays, where there is safe anchorage; but, as they are destitute of wood and water, they are hardly worth describing.

Directly round Cape San Lucas there is a very commodious anchorage, called *Puerto Segura*, where there is very good water. The mission of San Josef is but a short distance from this place, but no considerable supplies could be expected there. There is safe anchorage directly opposite to the mission, where water is still more abundant.

In the gulf there are many fine harbours: those below Loreto generally afford water, those above rarely; and, as they offer no other resources, they are unworthy a description, except the bay de los Angeles, which is situated in latitude  $29^{\circ}$  N.: it is very spacious, and entirely locked in by a number of small islands, through which the channels are very bold. There is excellent anchorage in many places round this bay, and there is also a spring of water, with an abundance of fish and clams, and other shell fish in plenty.

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These advantages, though trifling in themselves, become important when the situation of this harbour is considered: it is situated on the narrowest part of the peninsula, opposite to a very commodious road on the other side, with the mission of San Borja between them, which, with its proximity to the river Colorado, where timber may probably be procured, point out this noble bay as a very important post, either for communication with, or defence against the maritime provinces of New Spain, opposite to California.

Loreto, latitude N., and longitude is a place of considerable estimation with the Spaniards. It is the capital of Lower California. Their public magazines are kept there, and it serves as a point of communication with New Spain: its population consists of about fifty families, besides the garrison. It is a place of no resources, and is not fortified.

The gulf of California extends from cape Palmo, in latitude N., and longitude W., in about a north-west direction, up to the mouth of the river Colorado; from cape Palmo over to the continent is about leagues, and it gradually diminishes, until it comes nearly to a point at the head. On the California side, there are a great number of ports and commodious bays: few of them afford water; but fish are generally plenty and good, and in several there is an abundance of pearl oysters. On the eastern side is situated the fine fertile province of Sonora, with many rivers, but no ports for vessels of burthen, except Guimas, in latitude: which is large and commodious. Above Guimas the

coast is barren, and affords no water; above the latter, this gulf is covered with an immense number of barren islands: the navigation is, however, good among them, and there is no danger out of sight. From October to April, the winds prevail very strong from the northward; the rest of the year they are variable, with hard southerly gales from time to time; and the eastern shore is subject to thunder storms, which are generally of short duration. The country on the eastern side of the gulf forms the government of the internal provinces, of which Chiuaga is the capital, situated, as near as I could learn, about fifteen days journey inland from Guimas. This country is extremely fertile, well watered, and abounds in mines of gold and silver, and has a number of pleasant flourishing towns.

A short distance above Guimas commences the country of the *Apaches*, a formidable nation of Indians, that the Spaniards have not yet been able to conquer, and, above them, the *Colorado* tribes, equally formidable. These people possess a rich fertile country, also abounding in mines: they cultivate their lands, raise great numbers of horses and cattle, and greatly annoy the Spaniards.

At the time of the Spaniards first coming to California, that country was very populous: as before mentioned, it did not escape the penetrating eye of the Jesuits, then in the zenith of their power and influence in the catholic world, and it is probable that their ambition pointed it out to them as a favourable place to fortify themselves in, for the promotion of their vast views. However it may be, that order obtained a patent from the court of Spain to oc-



cupy the country, and civilize its numerous inhabitants. It is a curious fact, that in California, as in Paraguai, foreigners were principally employed, particularly Germans. Their success was equal to the wisdom and energy that characterized all the undertakings of that enterprizing society, as, in 1745, there were forty-three villages or missions established below the 28th degree of latitude, where agriculture and the necessary arts were in a flourishing state: at present there is not above a dozen missions below the thirty-first parallel, and several of these do not possess above twenty Indians.

At the suppression of the Jesuits, the care of completing the conversion and civilization of the Indians of California was confided to the Dominicans, and the missionaries of that order were established in all the missions then on foot, and a commission given them to found others, as circumstances should dictate. The government of the country was new modelled on the present plan, and the missionaries received their salaries directly from the king.

In the year 1769, the court of Spain, alarmed at the progress the Russians were making on the north-west coast of America, determined to occupy Upper California, and to establish missions there for the conversion and civilization of its inhabitants. These they confided to the Franciscan order, on the same plan, and nearly the same conditions, that the Dominicans then administered the spiritual concerns of the lower division, and proceeded to the establishment of the garrisons already mentioned.

The mutual jealousies and selfish policy of the great European

powers have been the causes that some of the most beautiful regions of the universe have long languished under the degrading shackles of ignorance and superstition; and the Spanish monarchy has been so long left to the quiet enjoyment of the finest part of the new world, that they have been at full liberty to extend their conquests there in every direction, without any other obstacle than the feeble opposition of the native savages. Any of the great maritime powers that should determine to give independence to New Spain, or wrest it from the Spanish dominion, would naturally seek to establish themselves in California, from whence, as a place of arms, they might carry on their operations against that defenceless kingdom with a certainty of success. This the Spaniards have doubtless foreseen, and been before hand in occupying it, with a view of forming a barrier to those valuable possessions. The foregoing shows that what they have yet done has had a directly contrary effect. They have, at a great expence and considerable industry, removed every obstacle out of the way of an invading enemy; they have stocked the country with such multitudes of cattle, horses, and other useful animals, that they have no longer the power to remove or destroy them; they have taught the Indians many of the useful arts, and accustomed them to agriculture and civilization; and they have spread a number of defenceless inhabitants over the country, whom they never could induce to act as enemies to those who should treat them well, by securing to them the enjoyments of liberty, property, and a free trade, which would almost

instantaneously quadruple the value of their actual possessions: in a word, they have done every thing that could be done to render California an object worthy the attention of the great maritime powers: they have placed it in a situation to want nothing but a good government to rise rapidly to wealth and importance.

The conquest of this country would be absolutely nothing; it would fall without an effort to the most inconsiderable force; and as the greatest efforts that the Spanish government would be capable of making towards its recovery would be from the shores of New Spain, opposite the peninsula, a military post, established at the bay of Angels, and that of San Diego fortified and defended by a competent body of troops, would render such an attempt ineffectual. The Spaniards have few ships or seamen in this part of the world; the arsenal of San Blas would be their only resource on such an occasion, and that might be very easily destroyed. But, admitting that the inactivity of the invaders should permit them to transport troops over to the peninsula, those that come from New Spain could not be very formidable, either in point of numbers or courage, and they would have to penetrate through Lower California, where they would not find even water in their march: all the other resources of that desolate country could be easily removed out of their way. They could not march round the head of the gulf: the natural obstacles to such an expedition would be very numerous; and they must besides force their way through many warlike nations of savages.

VOL. III.

An expedition by sea to Upper California would be equally difficult for them: the bad weather they must encounter in winter, and the great length of the passage in summer, on account of the prevailing north-west winds, would render it a very precarious undertaking. In a word, it would be as easy to keep California in spite of the Spaniards, as it would be to wrest it from them in the first instance.

The Sandwich islands appear to have been subject to many political revolutions; they have been all, at different periods, reduced under the domination of the kings of Owhyhee, and have as often regained their independence. On the arrival of captain Cook at Owhyhee, it appears that Terioboo, the reigning prince, was engaged in a war with Mowee, which appears to have been terminated before his death, as when that happened his eldest son was absent on a visit to his relations in that island. At this event, Tamaihamaiha, a young man, brought up in the family of the late king, seized on the government. His pretensions were founded on his grandfather's having been king, and his father defrauded of his right; he was besides a young man greatly beloved by the islanders, on account of the mildness of his manners, and his great abilities as a warrior, which he had had many opportunities of displaying in the late war. As soon as the young prince Tuwarrahoh, heard of his father's death, and of the usurpation of Tamaihamaiha, he returned to Owhyhee with a large army of auxiliaries, and was immediately joined by all who were attached to his family and interests. He arrived with his fleet off Karaka-

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koa, where he had an interview with Tamaihamaiha on the water, in presence of the two armies. The politic Tamaihamaiha behaved with great apparent moderation on this occasion; and, after stating his pretensions to the throne, generously offered to divide the sovereignty of the island with his rival. This was refused with indignation by the latter, and they immediately separated. Tuwarrahoh found means to effect a landing, and a general engagement was the immediate consequence, in which he was defeated with considerable loss, and obliged to accept of the terms previously offered by his rival.

A peace between two rivals, of nearly equal force and pretensions, is seldom of long duration. War again succeeded a short and equivocal peace, in which the superior talents and fortune of Tamaihamaiha prevailed. his adversary perished in the field of honour, and the former was left in quiet possession of the throne, the family and friends of the unfortunate prince taking refuge in Mowee. Several of the principal chiefs of Owhyhee saw with great impatience the elevation of Tamaihamaiha, among whom was the celebrated Tyanah, a man not inferior in talents to the former, but of a ferocious character, so that the government of the new king was for a long time troubled with feuds and insurrections.

About this time, the Sandwich islands began to be visited by foreign trading ships, and the unsettled state of affairs accounts for the various attempts made to cut them off. A small schooner, belonging to captain Medcalf, of New York, and commanded by his son, was surprized and put to death, except Mr.

Davis, the mate; and at the same time Mr. Young, boatswain of captain Medcalf's ship, was detained ashore. Tamaihamaiha highly disapproved of this outrage, and was never accused of having any hand in it; but as the perpetrators were of too much importance to be openly punished at that time, he contented himself with taking the two men under his protection: they were sent back into the country, and treated with every indulgence, and, when they had learned the language, were brought to court to assist the king with their talents and information. They have ever since remained faithful to him, have rendered him important services in his subsequent wars, and are to this day his principal ministers. John Young and Isaac Davis have been the principal means of convincing the islanders of the good policy of treating foreigners well, and have shown them the great advantages that would derive from a friendly intercourse with them. These advantages were immediately appreciated by the enterprising Tamaihamaiha, and the arms and ammunition he obtained in trade from the Americans determined him to undertake the conquest of the Leeward islands, whose chiefs had declared for the family and friends of Tuwarrahoh. This enterprize, after various reverses of fortune, he finally brought to a successful issue in 1795 and 6. Several petty rebellions have taken place since; but they were easily crushed, and Tamaihamaiha has ever since remained absolute sovereign of the whole groupe, except *Alooi*, the conquest of which he is now meditating, as before mentioned. Tyanah, who ever bore the supremacy of Tamaihamaiha with impa-

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tience, on the expedition against  
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 conquest, he was slain by a priest:  
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 fortune of the day, and the whole  
 island submitted to the conqueror.  
 Thus the singular good fortune of  
 Tamaihamaiha so ordered it, that  
 the stroke that assured to him the  
 conquest of an empire, also termi-  
 nated the existence of a treache-  
 rous and formidable rival.

Tamaihamaiha is a tall, fine-  
 proportioned man, and of most  
 prodigious strength and activity:  
 he far excels all his subjects in all  
 their manual exercises. His fea-  
 tures are strong and harsh at the  
 first appearance; but his physiog-  
 nomy softens very much on ac-  
 quaintance. He is a man of great  
 natural abilities; he is very politic  
 in his government, and extremely  
 popular; and, if he had had the  
 advantages of education, would  
 have been truly a great man.  
 His system of government is prob-  
 ably dictated by necessity, but it  
 is not calculated to promote the  
 happiness or prosperity of his  
 people: he is, however, his own  
 minister; he takes cognizance of  
 all affairs of importance himself,  
 and often punishes the chiefs for  
 flagrant acts of injustice, by de-  
 priving them of their fortune and  
 consideration. In the true spirit  
 of despotism, it is well understood  
 that no chief of the least conse-  
 quence can reside any where but  
 near the person of the monarch,  
 and, as he migrates through his  
 dominions, he draws after him a  
 train more destructive than lo-  
 custs. Every thing is abandoned  
 to follow the sovereign, and the  
 country being deserted by all who  
 have an interest in its cultivation

and improvement of the lands,  
 they are of course neglected. I  
 have observed many fine tracts of  
 lands lying thus neglected, even in  
 the fertile plains of Lahyna\*: the  
 ruined enclosures and broken  
 dykes around them were certain  
 indications of their not having  
 been always in that state. The  
 islands where the king does not  
 reside, are literally abandoned,  
 which is probably the state he  
 wishes they should remain in  
 during his absence: he does not  
 even maintain governors there,  
 except in Owwhyhee, which has  
 been governed for several years  
 by Mr. Young. His stewards, or  
 imperial procurators, are, how-  
 ever, employed in collecting all  
 the provisions they can lay hands  
 on, which are conveyed in their  
 small vessels to head-quarters.

It may be easily conceived the  
 wars of such a people must, parti-  
 cularly in their consequences, be  
 very destructive. The slaughter  
 is not usually great in the field,  
 but the unrestrained licence, and  
 the waste and destruction of pro-  
 visions by the conquerors, gene-  
 rally causes a famine in the con-  
 quered territory. It is supposed  
 that the wars of Tamaihamaiha  
 have destroyed one-third of the po-  
 pulation of the islands. He is, how-  
 ever, of a humane disposition, and  
 has ever used his best endeavours  
 to soften the ferocity of his adhe-  
 rents. By his own personal inter-  
 ference, he saved the life of the  
 young brother of Tuwarraho, who  
 is at this time in the full enjoy-  
 ment of his hereditary estates,  
 and is treated by him with kind-  
 ness, and the respect due to his  
 rank. As far as has been in his  
 power, he has restored their es-

\* A beautiful village in Mowee.

tates to the conquered chiefs, and he takes great pains to attach them to him, by acts of kindness and indulgence: he is not displeased to see a degree of jealousy between them and those who have been the artists of his fortune. The natural ascendancy which great minds have over those of a common mould, enables him to do many things that would not be tolerated in other men; his known character has given him unbounded popularity with the common people, and his equally well known energy and decision prevents any murmurs from the chiefs.

Thus has Tamaihamaiha, whose name literally signifies a lone, friendless man, by his own perior talents, reduced the whole of these islands, comprizing a population of more than 300,000 souls, under his dominion. He had three legitimate sovereigns to contend with, besides the son of the deceased king of Owhyhee, whose physical resources were greatly superior to his. They have all disappeared before him, and he has, by elevating the weak and depressing the strong, destroyed the possibility of a successful rebellion against him. He is at present, as far as circumstances will permit him, endeavouring to restore prosperity to his islands, which, as the factions that have desolated them for a number of years past are now done away, he will certainly do if he lives.

His revenues consist of the produce of his own lands, which are very extensive and rich, and a certain annual tax, levied on the lands, proportioned to their productions. He has besides great resources in the free gifts made him by all classes of his subjects. These are sufficient to enable him

to maintain about 500 guards, and to purchase from foreigners whatever he is in want of for the equipment of his vessels, of which he has about thirty, of from twenty to sixty tons burthen. His arsenal is stocked with about thirty pieces of iron cannon, 1000 muskets, and a considerable quantity of powder and ball.

The discovery of this fine groupe is attributed to captain Cook, though the nations say, that, several years before his appearance there, a ship appeared off the south end of the island of Owhyhee: two girls went on board of her in a small canoe, which was stove along-side of the ship, and, after remaining a night on board, they returned in a small boat, furnished them by the commander of the ship. This fact is so well averred that it cannot be doubted; and there is the greatest reason to suppose the ship was Spanish, particularly so as there is a groupe of islands placed on their charts of the Pacific ocean, a few degrees to the eastward of the Sandwich islands, said to have been seen by their Manilla ships. This magnificent groupe consists of eleven islands, called Owhyhee, Mowee, Tahowroa, Ranai, Morotoi, Whahoo, Atooi, Neeheehcow, Oncehaw, Morotinne, and Tahaura, extending between the latitudes of  $18^{\circ} 64'$  and  $22^{\circ} 15'$  north, and longitudes  $153^{\circ} 16'$  and  $162^{\circ} 46'$  west from the meridian of Paris, all inhabited except the two last.

Owhyhee, the largest and easternmost, is in length, from north to south, about twenty-eight leagues, and in breadth, from east to west, about twenty-four leagues. The high mountains of this beautiful island, the *Mona Roa* and *Mona Koah*, raise their magnificent, hoary heads above 12,000 feet



above the level of the sea, and may be seen at more than forty leagues distance. The different spurs of these vast mountains form a variety of plains of different elevations, which enjoy all the different gradations of climate, from extreme cold, near their summits, to extreme heat, in the vicinity of the sea-shore. A variety of rivers and streams afford a plentiful supply of water to the lands, and one fine river forms an excellent port on the north-east side of the island, where ships may be hauled in along-side of the river's bank. There are, besides, two other safe anchorages: one of them, *Karakakooa*, will always be remembered, by being the place where the celebrated discoverer of these islands fell. The general exterior of the Sandwich islands having been described by other navigators, and differing very little in their productions, or the genius and manners of their inhabitants, from Owhyhee, I shall include them generally in my description of the latter.

The lands of Owhyhee are very fertile, and perfectly well cultivated. On approaching the island, traces of plantations are discovered up near the summits of the high mountains. Their fields are enclosed with stone walls, and surrounded with bread-fruit and plantain trees, which give an exquisitely beautiful appearance to the country.

Their principal fruits and productions are the bread-fruit, plantain, banana, cocoa nut, a peculiar kind of apple, and yams, sweet potatoes, taro, sugar canes, and the tee root: these are all native productions. The taro is a bulbous root, that grows to the size of three to six or eight pounds; it

flourishes best in moist ground, or even under water; its leaves resemble those of the pond lily: this root is esteemed acrid in its crude state; but, when roasted or boiled, is mealy and well tasted, and is the best substitute for bread that I am acquainted with. The natives roast it under ground, then mash it, and, by mixing it with water, make a kind of pudding, which they keep till it ferments a little, when it is very good and wholesome food. The taro is what they are fondest of; it constitutes the principal article of their diet. The *tee* root resembles the parsnip, and, when roasted, is sweet as sugar: it is rarely eaten but by way of amusement. This root, macerated in water, after roasting, until it ferments, makes very good spirits by distillation: this pernicious use of it has been lately taught them. Besides the above, foreigners have introduced the cabbage, lettuce, peas, beans, and most of our garden vegetables, with melons, pumpkins, &c. Most of the tropical fruits, and the vine, have been lately introduced, and bid fair to become abundant. These islands were very poor in animals: the hog, dog, and rat were the only species of quadrupeds known there: their dog seems to be a degenerate species, resembling the fox, with erect ears; it is eaten by them, and is very delicate food. Foreigners have also greatly increased their stock of animals: at present, they have large herds of cattle, sheep, and goats, and I brought them a breed of horses from California. They are also very deficient in birds: they have, however, some small kinds in abundance, whose brilliant yellow and scarlet plumage serves for the fabrication of their much admired cloaks and

helmets. Neither are the seas of these islands abundant in fish, which they, in a great measure, remedy by fish-ponds, which are contrived with great intelligence: they have them of both salt and fresh water. The mullet and a fish of the herring species, called by them the *ava*, visit their coasts periodically, when they are very careful to stock their ponds with the young fry, where they thrive surprizingly: by these means, fish are sufficiently abundant.

These islanders have, by long and successive experiments, brought their agriculture to an incredible degree of perfection. It seldom rains much, except in the mountains, and necessity has taught them to avail themselves of the streams of water that run from thence: these are conducted, by little canals, throughout their plantations, which, besides watering them plentifully, gives them a beautifully romantic appearance, unknown in other countries. I have seen, in some places, aqueducts constructed to bring water to elevated lands, that would do honour to the ingenuity and industry of a much more civilized people.

Their food is principally vegetables, to which they add fish, and the flesh of hogs and dogs. They sometimes eat raw fish, but they always roast their flesh and vegetables; and their food is always prepared with the most perfect cleanliness.

Their manufactures are few, yet in them they display great ingenuity and taste. Their cloth is made of the inner bark of a species of the mulberry, which is carefully cultivated for that purpose, by macerating it in water, and reducing it to a kind of paste, when it is ex-

tended by beating it out on boards. This cloth is of a substance and consistence like paper; it is of various qualities, and answers very well to clothe them: some of it is handsomely painted, and many of their patterns would not suffer by a comparison with our best prints. The form and size of their canoes are well known, therefore it is sufficient to observe, that the workmanship is inimitably well executed. They make, besides, of a very beautiful species of wood peculiar to these islands, a great variety of table utensils, such as bowls, platters, and vessels of different sizes, in the form of calabashes, &c. They also manufacture a great variety of mats: some of them are very fine, and handsomely painted. All the foregoing were manufactured in the islands previous to their discovery, and without the use of iron tools. At present, the article being abundant, and their intercourse with foreigners having furnished them with new ideas, and new channels for their industry and ingenuity, they have carpenters, blacksmiths, &c., and have built several vessels, without any foreign aid. The New Zealand flax plant, so much vaunted by the English in their accounts of their settlements in New Holland, flourishes here: of it they manufacture excellent white cordage, of all sizes: for running rigging, there is no better rope.

The Sandwich islanders are a large, well made, robust race of people, and many of their women are perfectly beautiful, though, generally, their features are rather blunt and harsh: they would be disagreeable, were they not animated by good nature, and the finest eyes in the world. In their

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dispositions they are brave, gene-  
 rous, humane, and affectionate;  
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 bility, and will go any lengths to  
 serve those they think their friends,  
 but revolt at every species of ne-  
 glect or ill treatment. These ami-  
 able people have been stigmatized  
 as being the greatest thieves in the  
 world, but experience has given  
 me an opportunity of knowing the  
 malicious charge is unjust. That  
 there are thieves among them is  
 unquestionable, and among what  
 people are they not to be found?  
 Would it be just to call the Eng-  
 lish and Americans nations of  
 thieves, because many are to be  
 found among the rabble of London  
 and New York? No; and it ought  
 to be considered, that the first ships  
 that visited these islands were fill-  
 ed with articles above all price  
 with them, such as gold and dia-  
 monds would be with us; these  
 tempting objects were exposed to  
 their view, and apparently not  
 greatly valued by their owners;  
 and I do not think it extraordinary  
 that petty thefts should happen in  
 such cases. The only way to form  
 a just idea of such things is to  
 compare them with what would  
 happen, in similar circumstances,  
 among ourselves, when, I fear, we  
 should have very little reason to  
 compliment ourselves, by the re-  
 sult of the experiment. I was  
 among them nearly three months,  
 and, probably, in a more exposed  
 situation than any other person  
 ever was, and I do not think I lost  
 by thefts the value of two dollars.  
 By what I have said of these peo-  
 ple, it naturally follows, that they  
 are very subject to be influenced by  
 their passions, and it is a melan-  
 choly fact, that they are frequen-  
 tly led by them to the greatest ex-  
 cesses. Their government, as

will be seen hereafter, is but too  
 well calculated to hurry them into  
 the vortex of ambition, and its at-  
 tendant train of crimes.

The religion of the Sandwich  
 islanders is paganism. They have  
 many temples, which are large en-  
 closures, with piles of stones  
 heaped up in pyramidal forms,  
 like shot in an arsenal, and houses  
 for the priests and others, who  
 remain within them during their  
*taboos*. Great numbers of idols,  
 of the most uncouth forms, are  
 placed round within, in all direc-  
 tions: to these they offer sacrifices  
 of hogs, cocoa nuts, bananas, and  
 human victims: the latter are cri-  
 minals only; formerly, prisoners  
 of war were sometimes sacrificed,  
 but that inhuman practice was  
 abolished by the present sove-  
 reign. These offerings are never  
 eaten, but are left on scaffolds to  
 putrify. After entering these sa-  
 cred enclosures, no person can eat  
 of any of these kinds of articles,  
 except they have been previously  
 consecrated in the *morai* or tem-  
 ple, and they are for ever forbid-  
 den to women. Their religion is  
 very severe, and full of ceremony:  
 nothing can be held more invio-  
 late than a *taboo*; to transgress it is  
 certain death, without respect to  
 rank or person. They have a re-  
 gular hereditary priesthood, and a  
 sacerdotal language. The priest-  
 hood does not exclude them from  
 other employments, so that it is no-  
 thing uncommon to see a brave  
 warrior and a priest in the same  
 person. Their grand and princi-  
 pal ceremonies are called *taboos*,  
 which term literally signifies for-  
 bidden or prohibited: these are re-  
 gular every quarter of the moon,  
 and one at every new year, which  
 are lunar; they constitute their  
 chronological system, and are suf-

ficiently correct. The quarterly *taboos* are a universal prohibition, to all those who choose to attend the ceremonies at the temples, from visiting the abodes of the women, and of the latter going near the sea: sometimes it is extended to the men's going in canoes also, but this latter prohibition only takes place during the periodical visits of the fish to their coasts, and is a political measure to preserve them from extermination.

The priests and chiefs assemble in the *morais* on these occasions, where they make offerings to their idols, and the former pray to them for health, prosperity, success to any meditated enterprise, &c. These *taboos* last two or three days, and the grand *makatybe*, or new year, ten days always. This is a great festival, and the taxes are then collected with much ceremony. Their religion also enjoins that women shall retire from society during their monthly visitations, and, after delivery, to touch or speak to a man in these situations is punished with instant death. The history of mankind shows, that even the most absurd religious ordinances are often instituted on wise motives. The restraining the use of pork and cocoa nuts appears to be a wise law. Pork is generally considered unhealthy in warm climates, and is known to be so in these islands; and the oily properties of the cocoa nut also render it unfavourable to health.

Medicine is generally practised by the priests, whose contemplative way of life has led them to the acquirement of some knowledge of botany; they understand the use and application of vomits

and clysters, which are drawn from the vegetable reign, and sometimes exhibited with success. Topical bleeding is also in use, but a large share of priestcraft and mummery enters into their practice. Fortunately the good constitutions and temperance of these islanders prevents their having often occasion for the skill of their physicians.

The dress of the Sandwich islanders is very slight: for the men it consists of a narrow slip of cloth round their loins, and is nothing more than what modesty requires; that of the women is more ample, and descends below the knees; they also cover the upper part of the body with a piece of cloth, in the form of a mantalet, and decorate their heads and necks with garlands of flowers. The *ensemble* of this *costume* is becoming, and has a pleasing effect. Formerly they had a practice of tattooing, or puncturing different parts of their bodies with a variety of fantastical figures, which are indelible, but this practice is getting much out of vogue.

Their language is soft, abundant, and harmonious; it abounds in vowels, which render it very proper for poetical compositions, of which they are very fond: their history is perpetuated by traditional songs, but their music is too monotonous to be pleasing. Their dwellings are long quadrangular buildings, very neatly thatched, and their interior is clean, and well furnished with mats to sit and sleep on. The men and women have separate houses, and one sex cannot enter the eating houses of the other. All these regulations I was obliged to comply with during my residence among them. Their government

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is a strange mixture of despotism, aristocracy, and liberty. There is a regular graduated body of nobility: the present sovereign is not of the highest class in that hierarchy; and though he is as absolute a prince as any on earth, he has subjects to whom he pays the compliment of sitting down when they pass, as an honour due to chiefs of a higher grade than himself. The nobility are, generally speaking, the sole proprietors of the lands, and are masters of the lives and fortunes of their vassals, but not of their liberty. The people are not attached to the *glebe*; their masters may knock their brains out, for the most trivial fault, with impunity; but they cannot force them to work against their wills, nor detain them an instant in their service contrary to their inclinations. This balance of rights has a salutary effect, by restraining the landlords in the exercise of their power, and stimulating the peasants to industry by their dependence on their chiefs. These haughty nobles, in their turn, live in the same dependence on the sovereign, who disposes of their lives and fortunes at pleasure. The political distribution of their territory implies a very considerable degree of perfection in the science of government. Owhyhee is divided into six provinces or principalities, whose limits are very accurately defined, and they are again subdivided into a vast number of districts, every one of which has its limits and name. The political divisions of the territory of all the islands are equally well defined.

These people have no regular body of laws; but private property, the basis of all civil government, is clearly defined and acknowledged.

VOL. III.

ed; therefore, the customs arising from that principle are sufficiently correct for the government of a simple people. Theft, by custom, is punished by death, and other crimes generally by the *lex talionis*, which, as with most barbarous nations, is established among these islanders. The body of priests may be considered as their legislators. From the inviolable veneration in which their taboos are held, the king's mandates, sanctioned by them, acquire all the force and efficacy necessary. The present sovereign is well aware of the importance of this superstition to his authority, and takes great care to cherish it by every means in his power. The body of chiefs of these islands has all the vices naturally to be expected from a privileged class of unenlightened barbarians, who, as far as regards their conduct towards their inferiors, are under the control of no law. They are avaricious, cruel, and inhuman in the extreme. I have been informed that there have been instances of their killing their own servants for shark bait: such instances of barbarity are, however, very rare, and universally reprobated. With foreigners these noble personages are very troublesome: they are beggars and thieves, and have no sense of decency or decorum. Indeed, the king is so well aware of their villany, that he always cautions foreigners against letting any come on board, except those attached to his suite.

The history of these islands is necessarily very obscure, from their having no way of perpetuating remarkable events but by songs; and my ignorance of their language made it very difficult to understand their meaning, which

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is often allegorical. I however learned, that they believe themselves to be the descendants of two persons called *Mowee* and *Henai*, who escaped a universal deluge by flying to the summit of a remarkable high mountain of Owhyhee, called the *Mona Koah*. Here, when the waters began to subside, they say that a large bird, of singular shape and beauty, appeared to them, and gave them the laws and regulations they at present observe. They have received by tradition the names of a line of sovereigns, including the present king, whose number, allowing ten years' reign to each, carries back their political existence nine hundred years. As the monarchy is not acknowledged to be hereditary, but, after the death of the reigning prince, is generally usurped by the chief of the most talents and power, the average of ten years may be considered as not far out of the way. The art of agriculture and the construction of fish ponds, they believe to have been taught them by a prince of great wisdom, whose reign is lost in the remotest antiquity. Many years before the discovery of these islands, two white men landed at Karakakooa in a skin canoe; one of them is reported to have been much respected for his wisdom and prowess as a warrior. I have seen several of their descendants, whose features are very different from the natives in general.

A curious question arises here on the origin of these islanders. May it not be supposed that the Sandwich islands, with the immense range of islands in the southern hemisphere, of which the Marquesas and Society groupes are the commencement, and New Zealand, once formed a

continent, joining probably with the Phillipines, New Holland, Java, Bornea, and the immense archipelago by which the latter are surrounded, which has been broken up by some of the convulsions to which our globe is subject? The general conformity of features and complexion of the inhabitants of most of these islands justify such an opinion. The language of the natives of New Zealand, the Society, Marquesas, and Sandwich islands is nearly the same; their manners, customs, manufactures, and religion differ very little. When I first visited the Sandwich islands, I was in possession of a vocabulary of the language of Otaheite, by M. De Bougainville, by which I could make myself understood, and, on inquiry, I found that the names of animals, plants, mountains, and other remarkable objects, common to both countries, were not essentially different; and it is a remarkable fact, that the term denoting a foreign land in Owhyhee is Otaheite. Yet, before their discovery, they had no idea of the existence of any inhabited world except their own: none of their traditions make mention of it, but all acknowledge a universal deluge. The relative and positive positions of New Zealand and the Sandwich islands, with the other islands between these extremes, render it contrary to every human possibility to assign them the same origin in any other way. They are situated in different hemispheres, where the prevailing winds are so different, that no chance could have carried emigrants from the same place to people the different groupes, unless we allow them to have had, at some remote period, a sufficient knowledge of astronomy to ex-

*From the journal of the ...*

JOURNAL OF A VOYAGE, &c.

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We ran over and anchored in  
the bay of San Pedro, where I  
purchased a stock of provisions  
sufficient to last twelve months,  
with hogs, sheep, &c., for fear of  
being obliged to take up our resi-  
dence on some of the desert islands  
to leeward. But Providence had  
ordered it otherwise. We conti-  
nued our run down the coast, col-  
lecting all the furs in our way,  
and arrived at the point of Califor-  
nia the 28th July. Here I took  
on board a supply of water, and  
sailed on the 30th for the Sandwich  
islands.

We experienced nothing ex-  
traordinary in our passage down,  
except a violent hurricane, which  
began on the night of the 8th of  
August, and lasted until the 10th  
at midnight. The ship was so  
strained in this gale as to set both  
pumps going again, and I hardly  
had a hope that she would live  
through it. Fortunately, as the  
gale abated, she leaked less, and  
our prospects brightened again.  
At 2 o'clock at night, of the 19th,  
we, to our great joy, saw fires on  
the high lands of Owhyhee, and  
the next morning got under the  
lee of the island, when we were,  
as usual, visited by great numbers  
of the natives, of both sexes, who  
brought us refreshments, &c.  
On the 22d, we anchored in Kara-  
kakooa bay in twenty-two fathoms,  
sandy bottom, where I had the  
satisfaction to find the Huron,  
of Newhaven, from a sealing  
voyage, bound to Canton. I  
agreed with this gentleman for  
my passage, and embarked on  
board all my furs and specie. I  
also landed at this island the

greater part of my remaining  
cargo, in the care of Mr. John  
Young, a respectable old man,  
long resident in these islands, and  
at present viceroy of Owhyhee.  
The 31st, I sailed for Whahoo,  
the present residence of the so-  
vereign; with him I hoped to make  
an exchange of my old ship for  
one of his small vessels, which it  
was my intention to send back to  
the coast with the remainder of  
my cargo, under the direction of  
Mr. Hudson, a young gentleman  
who had been long my companion  
and assistant. I arrived at Wha-  
hoo the 1st of September, where I  
found the Atahualpa, of Boston,  
captain Adams commander, also  
bound to Canton, from the N. W.  
coast. This ship had been treach-  
erously surprized by the savages  
of that coast, and the captain, all  
the officers, and great part of the  
crew murdered. Other officers  
and seamen had been put on board  
from other American ships on the  
coast, and she was now at the is-  
land to refit, where they received,  
from the king and others, every  
assistance and hospitable attention  
in their power to give. Tamaiha-  
maiha offered me my choice of all  
his vessels in exchange for my  
ship, and promised to equip the  
one I should choose in the best  
manner in his power. I accord-  
ingly made choice of a new schoo-  
ner, of about forty-five tons bur-  
then, then on the stocks, which he  
agreed to finish, with the assist-  
ance of my carpenters and men,  
and what he could not furnish him-  
self to complete her was to be taken  
from the ship. Tamaihamaiha  
was very much flattered by the  
confidence I placed in him, and  
assured me that I should have no  
just cause to repent it. It may  
seem extraordinary that I should

*See Delant  
p. 395  
Lily - Engd.*

place such confidence in an uncultivated barbarian; and all I can say in excuse for it is, that my situation was such, that I must at any rate be in his power, and a half confidence in such cases is always dangerous, even with savages, as then no appeal can be made to honour or magnanimity. I immediately began landing every thing remaining into the king's store, and on the 9th I delivered the ship up to his agents, and removed ashore to a commodious suite of houses, assigned me by Tamaihamaiha. They were furnished in the best manner of that country, that is, with mats, cloth, &c., to sleep on; a guard of soldiers was also placed there for my protection.

I spent my time very agreeably at Whahoo; fresh provisions, the enjoyment of a fine climate, and frequent bathing, entirely re-established my health again, which had been reduced very low by the constant fatigue of body and mind for the last three months of my voyage.

By treating Tamaihamaiha with candour and respect, I entirely gained his good will. Many circumstances, very unimportant in themselves, concurred here to inspire him with a high idea of my *savoir* and superiority to the foreigners that he had been accustomed to receive information from, therefore he always treated me with the greatest attention, and assured me that I might command any thing in his power. I very frequently had long conversations with him on the affairs of his government, in which I gave him the best advice in my power. What particularly occupied him at present, was the desire of reducing the island of Atooi, the leeward-

most of the groupe, which has not yet fallen under his domination. This island being so far to leeward, there is considerable risk in an expedition against it, as a miscarriage would be attended with total ruin, on account of the difficulty of returning so far to windward. He has frequently assured me that his ambition would be satisfied with the king of Atooi's acknowledging him as sovereign, and paying him an annual tribute. However this may be, he, like all ambitious men, is determined to have no rival, and is making great preparations for the invasion of that island: my ship, when repaired and equipped, will give great respectability to his naval force.

Here we find an uncultivated barbarian, actuated by the same motives, and using the same specious arguments to justify his pretensions, as his brother kings of the civilized world, planning the conquest of a rival empire! Thus, from the imperial Corsican to the sable Haytian and tawny Sandwich islander, there seems to be no other difference than the means of annoyance which each possesses: their views are the same, and the result of their criminal ambition not very different: a greater or less degree of human misery. I do not mean by these reflections to insinuate any thing against my friend Tamaihamaiha; on the contrary, I have the greatest respect for his virtues and humanity; all I mean is, that mankind, in all situations, is swayed by the same passions, and by ambition in particular. This prince, from motives intuitive in courts, had sent an embassy, about twelve months before this period, to Tamoree, king of Atooi, proposing the above-mentioned conditions of

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peace. The latter, not trusting  
 implicitly to the declarations of his  
 adversary, had detained his am-  
 bassadors on frivolous pretexts.  
 One of them had found means,  
 with two of the suite, to evade the  
 vigilance of Tamoree, and, escap-  
 ing in a small canoe, arrived at  
 Whahoo about the time I was  
 leaving the island. He brought  
 information that Tamoree was  
 preparing to come up to the wind-  
 ward islands in a brig, lately built  
 at Atooi; his plan was to come  
 off the port as a foreign vessel,  
 expecting that Tamaihamaiha  
 would come off on board, as is his  
 custom, when he intended to se-  
 cure him or put him to death.  
 This plan might have succeeded;  
 but the knowledge of it not only de-  
 stroyed its effect, but has served to  
 give a show of justice to Tamai-  
 hamaiha's determination of invad-  
 ing the island.

The king was desirous to have  
 my opinion of the intended expé-  
 dition, and to show me the means  
 by which he expected to succeed;  
 he wished also to put it in my  
 power to inform Tamoree of  
 them, hoping through my means  
 to induce him to submit to his  
 (Tamaihamaiha's) terms. He  
 accordingly ordered a review be-  
 fore my departure. On the day  
 appointed, the troops arrived by  
 divisions, under their respective  
 chiefs, and formed, with a mixture  
 of native and foreign discipline, on  
 a fine parade that had been pre-  
 viously cleared for the purpose.  
 They were dressed in their best  
 apparel, and armed with muskets,  
 and lances of from three to five  
 fathoms long. They formed in a  
 column of twelve abreast, the  
 musketry in front. After going  
 through their exercises with much  
 precision, they formed in a close

column, and the oath to support  
 their sovereign in the war was  
 administered by the high priest  
 with great solemnity.

On this occasion there was, I  
 believe, about 700 men under  
 arms, 400 of which were musket-  
 eers. Many of the young chiefs  
 and their attendants were gaily  
 dressed in their feather cloaks and  
 helmets; the king in particular  
 made a very noble appearance:  
 he looked and behaved like a ge-  
 neral. Tamaihamaiha apologized  
 for the small number of men on  
 parade, which, he said, were only  
 his guards and those immediately  
 in the neighbourhood, and added,  
 that, if I would agree to wait a few  
 days, he would assemble ten times  
 the number.

After the parade, Tamaihamai-  
 ha assembled his principal chiefs,  
 and in their presence asked my  
 opinion on what he ought to do in  
 the war of Atooi. I advised him  
 to use every means to terminate it  
 in an honourable manner by nego-  
 tiation, and, if that should fail, to  
 take every possible precaution to  
 secure the tranquillity of the wind-  
 ward islands; to collect stores of  
 provisions; and to go down with  
 only a sufficient number of men to  
 conquer Atooi, leaving some of  
 his vessels to windward to bring  
 him reinforcements of men and  
 provisions, if he required them.  
 My advice was approved of; and  
 I was again requested to use my  
 influence with Tamoree, to have  
 it settled on honourable terms.  
 After this cabinet council, the  
 king ordered a sham fight, with  
 their native weapons blunted, in  
 which the Indians displayed great  
 address. This kind of sport is of  
 the roughest kind, and often ter-  
 minates in bloodshed: on this oc-  
 casion, no other accident happened

than two persons slightly wounded.

On the 2d of October I embarked on board of the Atahualpa; in the offing, we joined the Huron, who had arrived from Owhyhee two days before. His majesty and family came on board to take leave, and made me a present of two beautiful feathered cloaks. After bidding adieu to all our friends, and taking an affectionate leave of my friend Hudson, we made sail, at 2, P. M., from Whahoo, for Atooi. In the evening of the 4th, we arrived off the latter, where we fell in with a brig, which, on hailing, we found to belong to Tamoree. He was terribly alarmed at first, and refused to come on board; but after some hesitation he paid us a visit, at about 8 o'clock. After captain Adams had settled with him for the supplies he wanted, I broached the business of my mission, and represented to him the folly of making any resistance to Tamaihamaiha, and the still greater folly of expecting to amuse him by idle tales of submission, which his conduct constantly gave the lie to, and furnished Tamaihamaiha with a pretence for treating him as an enemy. I stated to him the terms on which he might have peace, and exhorted him to lose no time in sending up to make submission, and throw himself entirely on the generosity of the king of Owhyhee, who, I assured him, was disposed to deal favourably by him. When he understood the degree of credit I had with Tamaihamaiha, he declared that he was ready and willing to do any thing that I should advise him to. He desired that I would write to Tamaihamaiha, promising to send my letter immediately up to Whahoo by two

of his principal chiefs, as ambassadors, and assured me that he would comply with whatever terms the king of Owhyhee should dictate, that were consistent with honour and personal safety. I wrote the letter immediately, stating Tamoree's humility, and requesting Tamaihamaiha to attribute his past conduct to bad counsel, and to deal favourably by him.

This poor king has few of the means, either physical or moral, that could entitle him to the glory of contending with the great Tamaihamaiha for empire, and, although I do not pretend to justify the latter in his ambitious plans of conquest, yet I think it for the general good of the islands, that they should be under one government, and I have good reason to believe that there is no one so capable of wielding the imperial sceptre as my friend Tamaihamaiha.

On the 6th we anchored in Whymea bay, in twelve fathoms, clean sandy bottom, in company with the Huron and the king's brig, half a mile from the shore. I landed in company with the gentlemen from both ships, Tamoree remaining on board the Huron as hostage for our safety. We saw a fine valley, admirably well cultivated, and watered by a beautiful river; about two miles up this valley, there is an aqueduct of several miles in length, and upwards of twenty feet high, that leads a large body of water from the heights back, round an almost perpendicular mountain, to water the high parts of the vale. This work is of great antiquity: it is of stone, and constructed with much intelligence.

We received all we were in want of in the course of the day, and in the evening both ships



chiefs, as ambassadors, told me that he was with whatever Owhyhee should be consistent with personal safety. I immediately, stateliness, and re-amaiaha to attribute to bad conduct to bad conduct by him. I have few of the physical or moral, I give him to the glory with the great Tamaiha empire, and, all pretend to justify his ambitious plans. I think it for the good of the islands, that under one government we have good reason to see there is no one so capable of the imperial scepter as Tamaihamaiha. We anchored in twelve fathoms, bottom, in company with the king's ship from the shore. In company with the two ships, Tamaiha, on board the ship for our safety. The valley, admirably, and watered by a river; about two miles long, there is an aqueous miles in length, of twenty feet high, a large body of water, eight back, round perpendicular mountain. The high parts of the work is of great amount of stone, and contains much intelligence. All we were in the course of the day, evening both ships

weighed with the land breeze, and continued their voyage towards Canton. On the 27th of October, I left the Atahuelpa, and went on board the Huron: captain Malthrop never having been to China, wished to have the benefit of my experience in these seas. We had rather a tedious passage to the Ladrone islands, which we saw on the first of November. I landed, in company with the captain and supercargo, on Pagon. This island is composed of several volcanic mountains, of moderate height, surrounded with plains covered with cocoa nut trees, and trees of another kind, bearing a distant resemblance in their foliage to the pine. The largest mountain has a crater of apparently half a mile diameter, which constantly emitted large volumes of smoke

and sparks of fire. On the north-west side of the island there is a smooth bay: there is no safe anchorage in it, on account of a very rocky bottom. A plenty of food and cocoa nuts may be easily procured here, but I saw no traces of water on the island. We returned on board with a load of cocoa nuts in the evening. At a short distance to leeward of the island we found the air embalmed with the agreeable odour of oranges and lemons. The 12th we saw the Bashee islands; the 13th, the coast of China, and fleets of fishing junks; the 14th, at night, we anchored in Macao roads; the 19th the ships anchored at Whampoa, and I went up to Canton in the evening, where I had the pleasure of meeting a number of friends and acquaintance.